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DUALITY OF OFFICE IN THE UNIVERSITY.

Before any attempt is made to consider this question, let it be thoroughly understood that no disrespect is intended towards any of those whose names may be mentioned. From the very nature of the case, it is impossible to do otherwise than mention the names of those who are honored by the students, but who at the same time hold dual offices in the University.

There is a trite old saying which is often quoted, and which runs in this wise, "Between two stools one will fall to the ground." There is no intention to assert that any of those occupying such an uncomfortable position have actually fallen, but there are cases in which the legs of these same stools show unmistakable tendencies to spread. There is no remedy except to move to one of the stools and hold it down. This may be a very homely way of stating the case, but it is none the less true. This principle has again and again been illustrated in the University. Students—ambitious one—have insisted on their ability to take several courses, and have in most cases finally decided to stick to the one course in which they might with good reason expect to succeed. The whole tendency in education the world over to-day is to specialize; the University of Toronto like all similar institutions prepares to meet this demand, and the various honor courses are arranged accordingly. While the authorities do this for the students, it seems somewhat strange that this same principle is not carried out in the staff, every member of which should be a specialist in his own department, and should not attempt to take up work outside of that department with his students. Better far have no lectures than have them from one whose attention is divided between too many interests. Following out this line of thought it may not be out of place to take up the various dual offices in the University, and consider each of them.

The President is also Professor of History and Ethnology. Under present circumstances the duties of the former office are as much as any ordinary man can undertake successfully, and the effect of the enormous amount of work which has fallen upon Sir Daniel Wilson during the last eight months cannot have been good. A man of wonderful vitality, he puts younger men to shame. In the hour of the University's greatest need it would seem that he has been able to perform successfully the duties of his dual office. It cannot be denied however that were he free to devote his whole time and attention to University affairs the wear and tear upon him would not be so great. The University of Toronto is fast becoming so vast an institution that the day must come when she will elect a President who will do no professoriate work, but attend solely to the business interests of the University, and when occasion demand represent the University; a man too who can win the support of all classes of society, and use that to further the interests of the institution which he represents. Columbia College authorities never did a wiser thing than when they chose the Hon. Seth Low, as President, a man who had been Mayor of Brooklyn, and held high offices of trust. The effect was seen at once; all classes of men from artisans to millionaires lend a hand to aid that already wealthy institution.

There is no intention to disparage in the least the work which Sir Daniel Wilson has done either as President or Professor; he has done right well, and has stood in the front rank in many a hard fight for the interest of the

University. We but echo the wish of every one that he may be spared to see the building for which he worked so hard more than thirty years ago restored to its exterior architectural beauty, but more adapted in its interior arrangement to the needs of the present day.

The Professor of Greek is also Professor of Comparative Philology—two departments which are not entirely inconsistent, for a knowledge of Greek is essential to a thorough understanding of Philology. But it does seem absurd that the lectures so far have dealt mainly with the origin of the alphabet, and the change from listening to a lecture on Aristotle's Ethics and Politics, or Plato's Republic to another on the evolution of G, P or K, as we have them to-day, is somewhat startling; we very much prefer the former lectures. So say we all. The lecturers in Latin and Greek are also lecturers in Roman and Greek History, but one must confess that by their position as lecturers they are more able to lecture on the history of the peoples whose literature they read. Still, we hope the day will come when the history and literature of any language will be considered as different departments.

The lecturer in German is also Librarian, and when one looks at the number of cases still unpacked, and library but lately opened to the students, it is evident that if he attended to his duties as Librarian there would be no time for German at all, and if this last had its due there would be no time for Library duties; one or the other must and will suffer; of that there can be no mistake. Both departments are much too important to be in the least degree imperilled, and there ought to be a change for the interests of all.

The Registrar of the University is Registrar of University College, Secretary to the Senate; he is even said to be Asst.-Librarian (if this be so what is Mr. Brebner's position?) and what other offices he holds we know not. It would be indeed a calamity were he to retain his present positions and be made Librarian if any change took place there; it would be simply a worse case of out of the frying-pan into the fire. The Registrarships and Secretaryship are wisely centered in one person; and with the advancement of the University the duties of these offices will not diminish. But these are sufficient if successfully performed to require the undivided attention of one person.

These are all cases of dual office, and it is to be hoped for the good of the University in the future that no more be instituted, and that these be abolished; it would be far better if each one kept to one department, and did that well, than to fail in attempting to do what two men should do. The interests of the time demand the best men in every position, and these men should be secured whether for instruction or management. As intimated at the outset, no disrespect is intended to anyone who has come under discussion, but there is a desire to protest most vigorously against duality of office. The time was when this system could not be helped; it is a survival of times gone by, but a new day has begun when everyone in any position whatever should be able to fill his place, and do the work it demands well, and not several things poorly; a man for every place, and the best man in every such place.

The railway expenses inside of New York State of its students are paid by the Utica Conservatory.

There are nearly 4,000 young men in the American colleges who are preparing themselves for the ministry.